

Please contact Matt's Mom, Amy Nice marmernice@gmail.com, if you have any questions or are interested in group ticket activities described below. Please do not hesitate to get clarification from Amy about any of the explanations or suggestions noted, or to ask for further information.

EAT AND DRINK NEARBY IN ARLINGTON

(distances from Hilton Garden Inn Courthouse)

Coffee (and home-made baked goods):

* Simona Café 2507 Franklin Rd .4 mi

* Bayou Bakery 1515 N. Courthouse Rd .1 mi (beignets)

Lunch or a snack – **note that free breakfast is provided on Saturday May 4 and Sunday May 5 for our group!**

* Buy sandwiches at Whole Foods 2700 Wilson Blvd .5 mi (buy sandwiches before you depart to DC on Metro)

* Bayou Bakery 1515 N. Courthouse Rd .1 mi (New Orleans-style menu, can also buy sandwiches to go)

* Sweet Leaf Cafe 2200 Wilson Blvd .3 mi (everything organic, some vegan, breakfast & lunch sandwiches)

* Rhodeside Grill 1836 Wilson Blvd .4 mi (comfort food plus some good soups and salads)

* Board Room 925 N. Garfield St .8 mi (board games and pub food)

* Northside Social 3211 Wilson Blvd .9 mi (good food, Nice family favorite)

NEARBY IN ARLINGTON

(distances from Hilton Garden Inn Courthouse)

Courthouse Metro

.2 mile walk from Hilton Garden Inn on Courthouse Road. On Silver and Orange lines into DC.

Iwo Jima Memorial

1.1 mile walk from Hilton Garden Inn on Courthouse Road (or a .7 mile walk from Rosslyn Metro). There are also Bikeshare docks near Iwo Jima (Meade and N. 14th Streets). This is the Marine Corps Memorial based on a famous photo from the World War II Battle of Iwo Jima.

Netherlands Carillon and view of Washington, DC

.2 mile walk past Iwo Jima. This is a tower with 50 bells that were a gift from the Netherlands to the United States after WW2, with the location featuring a sweeping view of DC and in May there will be beautiful spring flowers. This park is open 6am through midnight so feel free to walk over late Friday or Saturday night or for sunrise for the classic view of the nation's capital and monuments including a view all the way to the US Capitol. The easiest way to get to the Netherlands Carillon is to walk from Iwo Jima – if you take Uber/Lyft you should get dropped off at Iwo Jima.

GETTING AROUND FOR ACTIVITIES DURING THE DAY

If you are staying at the Hilton Garden Inn on Courthouse Road in Arlington you are within a 4-5 minute Uber/Lyft/taxi ride to the wedding venue (1 mi walk) or the Nice family's house (1.4 mi walk). The after party is near wedding venue (0.5 mi walk), and close to the hotel (0.8 mi walk).

* A Metro station is just a couple blocks from the hotel accommodations, providing a 10-minute train ride to DC. For all activities listed below you would take a Metro train into DC on either the Silver or Orange lines in the direction of either New Carrollton or Largo.

* There are three [Capital Bikeshare](#) docks 1-3 blocks from the Hilton Garden Inn Courthouse (type in "Hilton Garden Inn Arlington" to see a map) and by the Rosslyn Metro is a Bikeshare station that commonly has bikes available (N. Lynn Street and N. Fairfax). There are bike trails to traverse to downtown DC and the National Mall, or over to Iwo Jima. If you are going to consider biking, you must bring a helmet with you to DC!

* There is also a [DC Circulator bus with several routes](#) you might want to use (with one route that stops at the Rosslyn Metro stop in Arlington). The DC Circulator has one [route that traverses the entire National Mall](#) which is helpful if you are going longer distances – like going from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to the Air and Space Museum (2.5 miles) or from Air and Space to the MLK Memorial (1.4 miles) or from the American History Museum to grab lunch at Union Station (1.5 miles).

Details and Maps

The first time you go into a Metro station, when you go to the Fare Machine you need to purchase a “SmarTrip card” as part of your fare purchase (hard card, \$2). A separate SmarTrip card must be available for every passenger over age 5 – the card must be tapped on a turnstile by each individual (over age 5) every time you enter and exit the Metro. You load money onto your SmarTrip card – fares vary according to distance and there is a map and fare chart by every card purchasing machine. The DC Metro system is very clean and safe. While trains usually run every 3-4 minutes during weekday rush hour, on Saturdays and Sundays train frequency is closer to 12-15 minutes. You can also use your SmarTrip card on the DC Circulator bus (fare is always \$1 per ride regardless of distance, with children under 5 riding free of charge).

If you might use Capital Bikeshare, please bring a helmet with you when you pack your wedding clothes :)

Metro system map: <https://www.wmata.com/schedules/maps/upload/2019-System-Map.pdf>

Interactive Metro map: <https://www.wmata.com/schedules/maps/index.cfm#main-content>

Capital Bikeshare dock locations: <https://secure.capitalbikeshare.com/map/> (You can do 24-hour pass for \$8.)

DC Circulator maps and rider tools: <https://www.dccirculator.com/>

FREE OF CHARGE, NO TICKETS REQUIRED, METRO ACCESSIBLE

If a change from the Orange or Silver Line is needed to take Metro and get to the destination, that change in Metro lines is described. If the closest stop is on the Orange or Silver Line, then you take an Orange or Silver train in the direction of either New Carrollton or Largo and below just the Metro stop name is identified. There is a group of activities at the end that require significant walking but are fun if walking works for your group.

United States Botanic Garden

The garden and plant exhibits here are quite beautiful and change from season to season – Federal Center SW or Capitol South Metro stations

Located at the bottom of Capitol Hill and across from the Air and Space Museum, so good to add if you're going to Air and Space and you want to walk by the West Lawn (front) of the US Capitol.

Carousel by Smithsonian Castle

On the National Mall – Smithsonian Metro station.

Fun for families! Okay, this one is not free but no advance tickets necessary and it costs \$3.50 per person per ride. Close to the Asian Art Museum and Air and Space Museum, and right in front of the Smithsonian Castle (which has permanent displays about the history of the Smithsonian Institution and its holdings), so convenient to combine with those spots, and also across the mall (about .5 miles) from the Natural History Museum.

Kennedy Center and view of Washington, DC

2700 F St, NW – Foggy Bottom Metro station (.4 mi to Kennedy Center)

Want to see a great view of DC? Do you think it would be cool to see all the flags of the 50 States (Hall of States) and all countries in the world (Hall of Nations)? Want to take a peak at the various performance spaces and hear about how the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts has really tried to inspire and support the arts? You can just walk around on your own, take a free tour from a docent, or follow a self-guided tour <https://www.kennedy-center.org/visit/Tour>. If you walk out on the balcony on the ground floor you get incredible views of Georgetown and Arlington (just across the Potomac) and you can also take the elevator up to the Terrace level and walk around all four sides of the Kennedy Center for a great view of the nation's capital.

Portrait Gallery

Between 7th and 9th Streets, NW on F Street, NW – if coming from Clarendon or Court House Metro get off at Metro Center on either an Orange or Silver Line train, following the signs to the 11th and F Street exit and walk three blocks (Bikeshare docks are 1 block from Portrait Gallery).

Want to see a museum that is more downtown so you can get a feel of the city? Want to see all the official portraits of prior presidents? Want to see posters and portraiture through American history? The Portrait Gallery is a Smithsonian Museum not on the National Mall. It's just off of 7th Street which has tons of restaurants, right by the arena where the Washington Capitals play and .4 mile north of the National Archives.

Library of Congress

Jefferson Building: 1st Street, SE between Independence Avenue and East Capitol Street (behind the US Capitol) – Capitol South Metro (2 blocks away).

The Library of Congress is the largest library in the world. If there is *any* topic you are interested in, you could find books, recordings, photos, posters and numerous other items about it here, most of it now online. While its formal function is to do research for Congress and maintain all holdings under US Copyright, the public can use the Library of Congress, too. For example, when the Nice family wanted to give a retirement gift to the long-time secretary at our local elementary school we went to the Library of Congress to obtain a copy of an early 1900s photo of her home town in South Dakota. The Library of Congress consists of three massive buildings behind the United States Capitol. The building that is most accessible for the public is in the Jefferson Building. Want to sit down in the Library of Congress' [Main Reading Room](#) or see the [Gutenberg Bible](#)? Want to [do some research](#) before coming to Washington and then ask a Librarian to see some items in person? Want to see an [exhibit on women's right to vote in the US](#)? The Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress has this interesting exhibit, along with [Music exhibits \(Gershwins\)](#) and [Graphic Arts exhibits \(editorial cartoonist Herb Block\)](#).

Fun, free activities that require a lot of walking:

National Zoo

3001 Connecticut Ave, NW – Cleveland Park Metro

From Clarendon or Courthouse Metro take Orange or Silver Line toward New Carrollton or Largo and get off at Metro Center, to switch to Red Line (toward Shady Grove or Grosvenor) and get off at Cleveland Park. A lot of people get off at Woodley Park/Zoo stop to go to the zoo (the Zoo is in the station name, after all) but Cleveland Park is just one stop further and features a mostly flat walk to the zoo entrance. Cleveland Park and Woodley Park are equidistant to the zoo entrance but Woodley Park is a hilly walk (uphill to the zoo, downhill when departing).

If you and your family enjoy zoos, this is a good one, and it's free, but note that this will require several hours of standing up and walking unless you remain in only the upper part of the zoo. As you can see on the [zoo map](#), visiting the upper part of the zoo doesn't require too much walking but visiting the other parts of the zoo does. The further you walk from the Connecticut Ave entrance you are walking downhill so an uphill walk to get out of the zoo.

Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington Cemetery Metro station - Orange or Silver Line toward New Carrollton or Largo and get off at Rosslyn, switch to Blue Line toward Franconia/Springfield

Walking required once in the Cemetery - about 1 mile from Cemetery Metro to Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, for example - and expect large Memorial Day weekend crowds at JFK's Eternal Flame and changing of the guard at Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. But pretty powerful to hear taps at Arlington Cemetery (hourly on Memorial Day weekend, at Tomb of the Unknown Soldier) and various good views of DC.

Flower Mart at the National Cathedral Gardens

Event on May 3-4. To get to National Cathedral on public transit is possible but inconvenient; getting a taxi (<20 minute drive) is easy though. Thorough transit options at: <https://allhallowsguild.org/visit-us/>

All Hallows Guild has hosted Flower Mart since 1939 and this is the 85th festival! Flower Mart is the largest annual fundraiser for the Cathedral's gardens and grounds. For more information go to <https://allhallowsguild.org/programs/flower-mart/>

NATIONAL MALL

Choose your own activity!

There is no fee or ticketing to enter any of the museums, memorials or other listed destinations (except the African-American History Museum that requires limited availability free tickets):

* Jefferson Memorial – Smithsonian Metro

* Lincoln Memorial – Foggy Bottom Metro (Bikeshare is close by)

- * Vietnam Veterans Memorial – Foggy Bottom Metro (Bikeshare is close by)
- * Washington Monument – Farragut West Metro (Bikeshare is close by)
- * White House – Farragut West Metro
- * WW2 Memorial – Farragut West Metro or Smithsonian Metro (.7 mi from either)
- * National Archives (Declaration of Independence, Magna Carta, etc) – Archives Metro (close by)
- * FDR Memorial – Smithsonian Metro (Bikeshare is close by)
- * MLK Memorial – Smithsonian Metro (Bikeshare is close by)
- * [Holocaust Museum](#) – Smithsonian Metro
- * [National Gallery of Art](#) and [East Wing of the National Gallery \(modern art\)](#) – Archives Metro
- * [Smithsonian Air and Space Museum](#) – Smithsonian Metro
- * [Smithsonian American History Museum](#) – Federal Triangle Metro & Bikeshare both close by
- * [Smithsonian Natural History Museum](#) – Federal Triangle Metro & Bikeshare both close by
- * [Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum of Modern Art and Sculpture](#) – Smithsonian Metro
- * [Smithsonian Asian Art Museum \(Freer & Sackler Galleries\)](#) – Smithsonian Metro & Bikeshare both close by
- * [Smithsonian Castle](#) (displays on Smithsonian history) – Smithsonian Metro & Bikeshare both close by
- * [Smithsonian Gardens \(Enid Haupt Garden\)](#) – Smithsonian Metro & Bikeshare both close by
- * [Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian](#) (both NYC and DC) – Federal Center SW Metro
- * [Smithsonian Museum of African Art](#) – Smithsonian Metro & Bikeshare both close by
- * [Smithsonian African-American History Museum](#) – Federal Triangle Metro close by. Note that you can only go to this museum if you are able to obtain a ticket for timed entry, and that tickets are not available on a walk-up basis on weekends. Tickets are free but only available for weekends by making a request at 6:30am on the day of your visit or the first Wednesday of the calendar month of your visit. You can try to [get an advance ticket](#).

There's a lot to choose from and it's easy to get around the Mall by taking Metro from Arlington and then walking. If you want to see things that are not nearby to each other on the National Mall you should consider using the [DC Circulator bus on the National Mall route](#) where you can pay with your SmarTrip card or pay exact fare in cash (either bills or coins, but \$1 per ride per person). This is not a tour bus, but is a city bus with several downtown routes (one of which connects to Rosslyn Metro in Arlington) and a National Mall route.

Lots of iconic memorials (Lincoln, Washington, Jefferson, among others) and lots of museums on the National Mall (there are 10 Smithsonian Museums directly on the Mall, all free, in addition to the National Archives, the National Gallery of Art, and the US Holocaust Museum). [Map](#) your options by looking at where memorials and museums are located. There are several Metro stops near Mall destinations and several Bikeshare docks (including one at the Smithsonian Metro stop).

Links to all the museums on the National Mall are above so you can see if you and your family are interested in in one or more of these museums. Metro stops are noted above for each of the primary memorials and all museums on the National Mall. If Bikeshare or Metro is within 2 blocks it is identified as close by (distance is relevant because the National Mall is 2.5 miles long and .5 miles wide). Each Metro station or Bikeshare dock location listed is less than .6 miles from the destination on the National Mall. (But note that depending on which spots you might want to see, the distances between spots can be long – so you might want to hop on the DC Circulator if your selected destinations are all not near each other.)

Lunch options:

- * Buy some sandwiches from Whole Foods before you get on the Metro at Courthouse and use backpack or bag.
- * Many of the Smithsonian museums have cafes.
- * Union Station (on the DC Circulator National Mall route) – lots of salad and sandwich spots.
- * If by US Capitol: Tortilla Coast or Bullfeathers – two casual restaurants within 2 blocks of Capitol South Metro

GROUP TICKETS FOR US CAPITOL ON SATURDAY MAY 4

We can arrange for getting tickets for three activities at the US Capitol. You do not have to do all three, and if you chose to do all three please be aware it will take up a couple hours of your time. Please note that in order to fully and easily enjoy the ticketed US Capitol activities, each individual needs to be able to stay on her feet for 1.5 hours and walk up and down steps. You need to contact Matt's mom to reserve a ticket (Amynice@marmernice@gmail.com).

Arrangements can be made, but you have to tell us if you are interested.

For all public entrance to the US Capitol for tour activities you must enter through the Capitol Visitors Center <https://www.visitthecapitol.gov/plan-visit/getting-capitol> (which is located on the East Lawn of the Capitol (back side) across from the US Supreme Court). The Capitol Visitors Center is walking distance from the Capitol South Metro station (.4 mile)(Silver or Orange Line) or Union Station Metro station (.6 mile)(Silver+Orange to Metro Center, transfer to Red Line headed toward Glenmont or Silver Spring). (Depending on your itinerary, you might arrive via the Red Line. For example, you might go to the Portrait Gallery in the am and then visit the Senate Chamber in the afternoon, taking the Red Line from Chinatown by the Portrait Gallery to Union Station.) There are also Capital Bikeshare docks nearby the Capitol <https://secure.capitalbikeshare.com/map/>. Once you go through security at the Capitol Visitors Center, you can show the tickets you have for your activity to a guard and you will be directed where to go. After your guided tour and/or visit to the Senate or House chambers, you can also go to the Exhibitions in the Visitors Center.

US Capitol Tour - this is a guided tour that starts at 11:30am for one group of 15
Must arrive by 11:00am at the Capitol Visitors Center and meet up as a group outside while waiting in security line. We have tickets available for up to 15 people.

Visit the Senate Chamber

This can be done in combination with guided Capitol tour, just after the tour, or can be done independently, or can be done before or after visit to the House of Representatives. Tickets available for up to 15 people but these tickets can be distributed in small groups (you do not all have to go together). No assigned time.

Visit the House of Representatives

This can be done in combination with guided Capitol tour, just after the tour, or can be done independently, or can be done before or after visit to the Senate. Tickets available for up to 15 people but these tickets can be distributed in small groups (you do not all have to go together). No assigned time.

Where to eat by the Capitol on Saturday?

*Union Station - has several salad and sandwich spots (Chopt, Le Quotidien, Potbelly) on the ground level and a whole food court a couple levels down. Union Station is huge and clean (it was renovated in the 1980s) and not an uncommon place for people to meet for lunch or coffee during the work week.

*Tortilla Coast or Bullfeathers - near Capitol South Metro, lunch spots for lobbyists and Hill staffers during the week. These two restaurants are the closest places to eat on a Saturday when you exit the Capitol Visitors Center.